

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TOIRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5591

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USLO RIYADH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPAS, BGEN, SA

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL DISPUTE AND DETENTION OF TWO AMCIT EMPLOYEES
OF US COMPANY

REF: (A) STATE 173026 (NOTAL), (B) DHAHRAN 0860 (NOTAL)

1. REF REF DEPLJB CONTENTS OF PARA 1 PROVIDED HELPFUL AND
USEFUL GUIDANCE TO POST. CONTENTS OF PARA 2 PASSED TO
AL-KHODARI ESTABLISHMENT GENERAL MANAGER RAHMAN AS
INSTRUCTED. RAHMAN'S REACTION TO MESSAGE WAS THAT
SUMMIT'S LAWYER HAS MADE DEMANDS ON ABDULLAH AL-KHODARI
THAT HE WOULD FIND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. HE ASKED WHY KHODARI
SHOULD TRAVEL TO LONDON WHEN HE FIILS HIMSELF TO BE THE
AGGRIEVED PARTY.

2. POST RAISED TWO DIRECT QUESTIONS WITH RAHMAN. HE WAS
ASKED TO RETURN THE TWO AMCIT PASSPORTS HELD BY AL-KHODARI
RAHMAN DEMURRED SAYING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PUT THE
QUESTION TO ABDULLAH AL-KHODARI WHO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN
IN NEST FEW DAYS. RAHMAN WAS THEN ASKED IF BAHRAIN WOULD
BE ACCEPTABLE MEETING PLACE FOR AL-KHODARI AND SUMMIT?

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RAHMAN REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT AL-KHODARI WOULD FIND IT
ACCEPTABLE.

3. IN POST'S JUDGEMENT, FASTEST WAY TO ACHIEVE RELEASE OF
AMCIT PASSPORTS, PROPERLY VISAED, BEING HELD BY KHODARI, IS
TO PRESS SUMMIT TO COME TO NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH AL-KHODARI.
SO FAR AS WE CAN SEE, SUMMIT HAD DONE NOTHING, RPT, NOTHING

TO ALLIEVEIATE THE PROBLEM WHICH BEGAN WHEN COMPANY
ABADONED ITS ROAD JOB, EQUIPMENT,
AND EMPLOYEES IN SAUDI
ARABIA. AS WE UNDERSTAND SUMMIT'S ROLE, IT SEES ITSELF AS A
COACH, PASSING SIGNALSHHO ALL OTHERS AS TO WHAT THE NEXT PLAY
SHOUD BE. WHILE WEICANNOT SAY WITH CERTAINTY, BAHRAIN
MEETING COULD PROVIDE SITUATION TO INSURE DEPARTURE OF TWO
AMCITS (SEE OUR REFTEL AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES) FROM SAUDI
ARABIA. AL-KHODARI PEOPLE AND AMCITS COULD TRAVEL TO THE
EETING WITH LATTER PLAYING ROLE OF EXPERT WITNESSES TO
AID BOTH SIDES IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT. BELIEVE THAT AT
END OF MEETING AL-KHODARI WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO TWO
AMCITS CONTINUING ON TO US. CONSEQUENTLY, POST ENCOURAGES DEPART-
MENT TO PRESS SUNOWWXMO TRAVEL TO BAHRAIN TO MEET WITH
AL-KHODARI. IT CAN BE EXPLAINED THAT STATE OF BAHRAIN IS
SEPARATE STATE AND MEETING SITE, SO CLOSE TO DHAHRAN AS TO
PERMIT BOTH SIDES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION QUICKLY AND EASILY
REGARDING THEIR COMMERCIAL DISPUTE IN SAUDI ARABIA. POSTS NOTES
THAT SUMMIT LAWYER, ON JULY 19, EXPLAINED TO CG IN TELECON THAT
HE WOULD "PERSONALLY GUARANTEE HE (ISGETTE, THE OWNER OF SUMMIT)
WILL GO TO BAHRAIN" TO MEET WITH AL-KHODARI.

4. ONE ASPECT OF THIS MATTER, WHICH MAY LOOM LARGER AS
THIS PROTECTION AND WELFARE CASE GRINDS ON IS THE AL-
KHODARI TACTIC OF USING LOCAL SAG AUTHORITIES AS PARTIAL
EXPALNATION AS TO WHY AMCITS CANNOT LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA.
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PASSPORT ISSUED TO WILLIAM HANSHUMAKER IS BEING HELD,
SO WE UNDERSTAND, BY PASSPORT OFFICE IN AR'AR, A TWON
700 MILES FROM DHAHRAN. WHILE POST CAN (AND HAS
OFFERED) TO ISSUE HANSHUMAKER A REPLACEMENT PASSPORT, IT
WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE SINCE SAG AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO
PROCESS NEW RESIDENT VISA IN REPLACEMENT PASSPORT. FOR
LOCAL SAG OFFICIALS TO DO SO, IT WOULD REQUIRE TIME - AND
TIME WORKS TO AL-KHODARI'S ADVANTAGE. POST IS URGING
AL-KHODARI TO SQUARE THIS SITUATION BUT SAUDI COMPANY
DODEGES ISSUE - CANNOT
GMMUNICATE WITH AR'AR, OR STAFF
MEMBER COULD NOT PICK UP PASSPORT WHEN HE WAS IN AR'AR,
ETC.....AND SO THE EXCUSES CONTINUE TO FLOW. IT MAY
BE THAT ONLY DIRECT WAY CONGEN CAN SECURE RELEASE OF
HANSHUMAKER'S PASSPORT IS FOR CONSULAR OFFICER TO SPEND
TWO OR MORE DAYS IN TRAVEL TO AND FROM AR'AR TO OBTAIN PASS-
PORT. WE NOT CERTAIN COURSE OF ACTION WOULD PRODUCE
DESIRED RESULTS AS SENIOR AL-KHODARI OFFICIALS HAVE
CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN AR'AR THAT GO
BACK NEARLY A QUARTER OF CENTURY. IT ENTIRELY
POSSIBLE THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS IN AR'AR WOULD BE
INCLINED TO PLAY ALONG WITHIAL-KHODARI'S STALLING TACTIC.

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